

direct consequence of a conference on insect sex attractants held in the USA and the viewpoint and examples are largely but not exclusively North American.

The book is divided into seven parts: Principles of Research and Development, Pest of Horticultural Crops, Forest Insect Pests, Pests of Field Crops, Stored-Product Pests and Veterinary, Development Registration and Use and Future Prospects.

The general reader interested in insect control will be most concerned with the principles section of the volume. This covers such important fundamentals as chemical identification of pheromones and their precise mixtures, design of controlled-release formulations, chemical synthesis etc, and as such consists of a reasonably complete overview and introduction to pheromone technology. The subsequent chapters in parts 2 - 6 are all particular examples of the commercial or research applications of insect sex attractants in specific crop outlets. These serve as examples to illustrate the principles and problems described in part 1.

The final chapter by Heinrich Arn sums up the future prospects for the industry and contains the following telling insight into a realistic future for control by pheromones:— “Predictions on the success of pheromones have always been based on economics. We can indeed think of two mechanisms by which semio-chemicals could win the competition with insecticides: One is by public support . . . [the other is] through a ban on insecticides”. There is also an appendix which contains a list of commercial suppliers.

The high cost of this volume will make it of most interest to libraries and institutions and as such will be of general utility to those professionals actively engaged in pheromone applications for insect control.

P.J. Jewess

### Obituary

#### Jeremiah (Jerry) Briggs. 1904 - 1991

Readers will be sorry to hear of the death of Jerry Briggs on 22nd January 1991 at the age of 86 years.

He was born on 9th May 1904 at Wyke Farm near Bradford, Yorkshire, where his father was a farmer. His parents died when he was only a few years old and he was cared for by relatives. After attending Bradford Grammar School he set up as a nursery gardener and built up a considerable business in that occupation.

His interest in natural history was fired at an early age (about six years, he thought) when he observed a butterfly at rest on some flower — species of butterfly and flower not remembered. From that time on his interest remained for the rest of his long life. During his Bradford days he was an active member of the Bradford Natural History Society, to which he contributed papers, and also to the Yorkshire Naturalists Union on which he served for some years as a committee member.

Soon after the end of World War two he started operating a mercury vapour trap and kept meticulous records of all his moth captures. He continued to operate his trap until a short time before his death when failing eyesight restricted his abilities.

Jerry retired from Bradford and came to live at Slackhead near Beetham, Cumbria in 1968. Here he was in an ideal and enviable situation for pursuing his entomological interests. His house was on the carboniferous limestone formation and he was nearly surrounded by good mixed woodland. Within a few miles were numerous other good habitats for insects. He devoted his time to Lepidoptera and his garden. Being by profession a nurseryman his garden became indeed a thing of beauty and joy. From the time of his arrival at Slackhead until a year or two before his death his m.v. trap was operated nearly every night of the year. In recording the capture of *Catocala nupta* (L.) (on 5th October 1987) in *Ent. Rec.* **100**: 54 he noted that up to that time he had taken 401 species of macrolepidoptera at his garden trap — a most remarkable achievement! The secret of his success was owing to his diligence — the trap would be inspected before he retired to bed, as would the walls and vegetation surrounding it. Then another inspection would be made during the night, often at 2 or 3am, then, yet again, at dawn. I believe very few of us can claim such dedication. Jerry very often referred to the fact that by making these visits he observed many species which would not have entered the trap and would have disappeared by dawn, and also he forestalled the hungry birds in their dawn forays.

For some years an m.v. trap was operated at the RSPB Reserve at Leighton Moss, near Silverdale. Jerry was responsible for the determination of the macrolepidoptera taken and the results were passed on for the Rothamstead Insect Survey, then in progress on a countrywide basis.

In the period from about 1950 until the last two years he published almost fifty notes in this *Journal* concerning uncommon captures and immigration records.

Jerry was well-known in the entomological world and many will have happy memories of visits to his home at Slackhead. All were made very welcome, all were impressed by his knowledge, knowledge which was freely available to the enquirer. His wife, Florence, contributed generously to the welcome of visitors.

During his entomological lifetime he kept highly detailed notes of his captures and observations. His notebooks and diaries, as well as his excellent collection of lepidoptera were donated to Cliffe Castle Museum, Keighley, Yorkshire, where they join those of his close friend, the late Cecil Haxby.

He will be greatly missed by his many friends but most of all by his widow, Florence, to whom we extend our sincere sympathies.

N.L. Birkett